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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/580,388	02/16/2007	Sascha Kopplin	10191/4156	2563
26646	7590	09/11/2007		
KENYON & KENYON LLP ONE BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10004			EXAMINER PATEL, NIMESH G	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2111	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/11/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

uspto@kenyon.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/580,388

Applicant(s)

KOPPLIN, SASCHA

Examiner

Nimesh G. Patel

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20060522.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(o). Suitable descriptive legends are required by the examiner for the understanding of the drawings. They should contain as few words as possible.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Osmer et al.(US 2001/0010424) and Denuto et al.(Lin Bus and its Potential for use in Distributed Multiplex Applications), submitted by Applicant.
4. Regarding claim 11, Osmer discloses a connecting element for weight measurement in a vehicle seat, comprising: a connecting arrangement to a bus; and a bus communications arrangement(Paragraph 31).

Osmer does not specifically disclose a single wire bus. However, Denuto discloses a single wire bus(Figure 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a single wire bus since this reduces the number of wires needed in the system.

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5. Regarding claim 13, Denuto discloses a connecting element, wherein the connecting arrangement includes: a voltage connection, a data communications connection, a ground connection(Figure 4), but does not specifically disclose a configuration connection, a wiring configuration of the configuration connection indicating the installation position. However, official notice is being taken that configuration connections are well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a configuration connection since this can be used to configure the sensors and use a wiring configuration indicating the position of the sensors since this indication can be used to associate the position of the sensor with the appropriate measurement values to properly calculate weight distribution.

6. Regarding claim 14, Osmer does not specifically disclose a connecting element, wherein the bus communications arrangement includes a toroidal core store that stores a measured value for the weight measurement, the connecting element further comprising an indicator to retrieve the measured value. However, official notice is being taken that toroidal core stores are well known in the art and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use toroidal core store to store the weight measurement values for the sensors.

7. Regarding claim 16, Denuto discloses a connecting element, wherein the connecting element is configured as a slave to the bus communications(Figure 4).

8. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Osmer, Denuto and Rudduck(US 2005/0172462).

9. Regarding claim 15, Osmer and Denuto do not specifically disclose a connecting element, further comprising: a memory storing a serial number that characterizes the connecting element. However, Rudduck discloses a memory storing a serial number that characterizes the connecting element(Paragraph 88). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art

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to store a serial number in the connecting element since this can uniquely identify each sensor made by the manufacturer.

10. Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Osmer and Rudduck.

11. Regarding claim 17, Osmer discloses a method for bus communications between a control unit for activating a personal protective device as a master, and at least one connecting element for weight measurement in a vehicle seat as a slave(Paragraph 31).

Osmer does not specifically disclose causing the control unit to assign to the at least one connecting element a respective address in accordance with a respective serial number of the at least one connecting element. However, Rudduck discloses assigning a connecting element a respective address in accordance with a respective serial number(Paragraph 88). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use serial number addressing since this would give a unique address and identifier to each sensor.

12. Regarding claim 18, Osmer discloses a method, further comprising: sending the at least one connecting element a request message; and transmitting from the connecting element a measured value to the control unit as a function of the request message(Paragraph 31).

13. Regarding claim 19, Osmer discloses a bus system, comprising: a control unit for activating a personal protective device as a master; at least two connecting elements configured for weight measurement in a vehicle seat as slaves(Paragraph 31)

Osmer does not specifically disclose a bus system having a single-wire bus. However, Rudduck discloses a single wire bus(Paragraph 88). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a single wire bus since this reduces the number of wires needed in the system.

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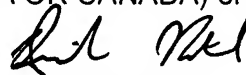
14. Regarding claim 20, Osmer discloses a bus system, wherein the at least two connecting elements include four connecting elements installed in the vehicle seat(Paragraph 31).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nimesh G. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-3640. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-6:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinehart H. Mark can be reached on 571-272-3632. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Nimesh G Patel
Examiner
Art Unit 2111

NP
September 3, 2007



Glenn A. Auve
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